**Installation of New Telephone Lines**

7059. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) How many operational phone lines were there in the country at the end of March 1995.

(b) whether the target for new lines installation for 1994-95 has been met; and

(c) if not, details of shortfall in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The number of direct exchange lines working in the country as on 31.3.95 was 9,79,53,04.

(b) Yes, Sir. During 1994-95 17.69 lakh lines were installed against the target of 14.26 lakh lines.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

***Annual growth rate in Telecom Sector***

7060. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Telecom Sector is expected to grow at the rate of 20% per annum;

(b) if so, the details about the sectoral growth pattern of the Telecom Sector;

(c) whether there is some uniformity in this growth pattern amongst the different States; and

(d) if so, the details of state-wise contours of telecom growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) As per the demand projections made upto the year 2005, the average Annual growth rate for the country as a whole expected to be 14.5%.

(c) and (d) In respect of the projected telephone demand for telecom circles the average growth rate upto the year 2005 ranges between 13.3% in Gujarat to 18.7% in Kerala. However, in respect of Metro cities the average growth rate is lower than the All India average, ranging from 9.56% in respect of Bombay to 13.1% in respect of Delhi. The statewise growth rates are given in the statement.

**Statement**

| Metro Districts/ Telecom Circles | Estimated Growth Rate (1995-2005) |
|---|---|
| Bombay | 9.56 |
| Calcutta | 10.0 |
| Delhi | 13.0 |
| Madras | 10.9 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 15.0 |
| Assam | 14.2 |
| *Bihar* | *15.2* |
| Gujarat | 13.3 |
| Haryana | 16.5 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 18.0 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 13.8 |
| Karnataka | 15.3 |
| Kerala | 18.7 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 16.8 |
| Maharashtra | 14.1 |
| North East | 14.4 |
| Orissa | 15.3 |
| Punjab | 16.5 |
| Rajasthan | 17.6 |
| Tamil Nadu | 16.6 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 14.5 |
| West Bengal (includes Andaman & Nicobar) | 13.7 |

**Cellular Mobile Phones in Metropolitan Cities**

7061. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the cellular mobile phones are expected to become operational in the four metropolitan cities;

(b) whether Government have any programme for operation of cellular mobile telephone services in other major cities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) It is expected that service will be operational in all the four metro cities by the end of November, 1995.

(b) and (c) The Government have already floated tenders inviting bids from Regd. Indian companies for franchise of cellular mobile